

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**  
**HB 5531 – AN ACT**  
**Amy Fogelstrom Chai MD MS**  
**PRO**

Good morning/afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you so much for hearing testimony regarding assisted outpatient treatment (involuntary treatment via conservator) As a victim of a parent with schizophrenia, I cannot begin to explain the harm that has befallen our family, reverberating across four generations of extended family, due to the profound effects of untreated schizophrenia. My mother has schizophrenia, as well as "anosognosia" (she is utterly unaware of her illness and denies it vehemently) and has gone un-medicated for 25 years. She has destroyed our nuclear family utterly, although we have all stuck with her. She actively interferes with my father's medical care because she believes in conspiracies. She harmed her own elderly mother while she was in the hospital due to a broken hip. She also made it difficult or impossible for children and grandchildren to attend the funeral. She keeps my father like a prisoner, but he refuses to leave because he feels a duty to be there due to religious beliefs about marriage. My husband won't allow my children to visit, and I guess I can't blame him but I am devastated. She refuses to see a regular doctor despite some potentially serious problems.

I have spent thousands of dollars on lawyers and airfare, just trying to get the home repaired (the contractors refused to go in for any price) to create a safe environment. She removes the smoke alarm and nails windows shut. She has conspiracy delusions about my brother's cancer and she calls him repeatedly to bother him about his chemo, and this is a constant heartbreak. She is not trying to kill anyone, so we are just waiting for the other shoe to drop. Sometimes I can't contact my parents and I don't know if they are frozen to death in their home or on a road trip to nowhere. My entire life has been changed for the worse. I KNOW my mom would not want to be hurting us all but she doesn't know she is ill. PLEASE GOD if I am ever ill in this way PLEASE let someone take care of me. I would rather DIE than put my family through hell and I KNOW my mom would feel the same way.

I know people will selfishly speak of their rights to harm others, but that is plain evil. If someone is AWARE and they don't care to get help, I guess you could wash your hands of them forever. But when they don't know they are ill, you don't have a choice but to try and fail and suffer every day across four generations of pain. If families don't want it, they are free to NOT USE it, but to keep that option from families that need it is worse than murder.

Please, please give us assisted outpatient treatment.

Best,  
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